

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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NSC-05 /067 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7998

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 162

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, XT, EEC

SUBJECT: ETUC PRESIDUM REVIEWS FRENCH CGT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 8403

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ON DECEMBER 13 THE PRESIDUM OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) DECIDED TO DEFER DECISION ON THE FRENCH CGT'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP PENDING FURTHER STUDY. THE PRESIDUM (PRESIDENT AND SIX VICE PRESIDENTS) ALSO AGREED THAT ETUC PRESIDENT VETTER SHOULD MEET WITH CGT GENERAL SECRETARY SEGUY TO DISCUSS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRENCH APPLICATION AND TO ADVISE SEGUY THAT THE CGT'S

PRESENT STATUS WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE ETUC. A DATE FOR THE VETTER-SEGUY MEETING HAS NOT BEEN SET. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 13 THE ETUC PRESIDUM VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO POSTPONE A DECISION ON THE FRENCH CGT APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC "AT THIS TIME." ACCORDING TO AN ETUC SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL THERE WAS ALSO COMPLETE UNANIMITY IN DECIDING THAT ETUC PRESIDENT VETTER SHOULD MEET WITH CGT GENERAL SECRETARY SEGUY IN ORDER TO INFORM SEGUY THAT THE ETUC CANNOT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE CGT'S APPLICATION AS LONG AS THE CGT MAINTAINS ITS PRESENT FULL MEMBERSHIP STATUS WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU). A DATE FOR THE VETTER-SEGUY MEETING HAS NOT BEEN SET, BUT IT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY.

3. THE CGT MEMBERSHIP ISSUE HAD BEEN HJSFR#TO THE

PRESIDIUM FOR ACTION BY THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 25 (SEE REFTEL) ETUC VICE PRESIDENTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE PRESIDUM'S DECEMBER 13 DECISION WERE: NIELSEN-LO DENMARK; STROER-OGB AUSTRIA; DEBUNNE-FGTB BELGIUM; MURRAY-TUC BRITAIN; AND SPIT-NX NETHERLANDS. ITALIAN LEADER STORTI WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF INTERNAL UNION PROBLEMS AT HOME.

4. COMMENT: IT IS PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT VETTER, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN DGB WHICH IS SO STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CGT ADMISSION, SHOULD BE GIVEN A SOLO ROLE IN DEALING WITH SEGUY. IT IS QUOTE APPARENT THAT LEADERS OF THE BRITISH TUC, BELGIAN FGTB AND CERTAIN SCANDINAVIAN UNIONS WHO FAVOR CGT ADMISSION HAVE CORRECTLY SIZED UP THE SITUATION AND DECIDED AGAINST FORCING THE ISSUE. IF THEY PERSISTED, THEY WOULD NOT ONLY FALL SHORT OF THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE NECESSARY FOR A FAVORABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT WOULD ALSO RUN THE RISK OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE GERMANS WHO ARE JOINED BY THE FRENCH FORCE OUVRIERE AND BELGIAN CHRISTIAN CONFEDERATION IN ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO CGT ADMISSION.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, VETTER AND CGT OPPONENTS CONTINUE TO BASE THEIR CASE AGAINST THE CGT ALMOST SOLELY ON THE FACT THAT THE CGT UNLIKE THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED CGIL OF ITALY WHICH

WAS ADMITTED TO THE ETUC LAST MAY, STILL MAINTAINS FULL MEMBERSHIP WITH THE WFTU. THUS FAR THIS POSITION HAD HELD UP, BUT IF THE CGT SHOULD OPT TO FOLLOW THE CGIL PATH BY MODIFYING TO SOME EXTENT ITS ORGANIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WFTU, VETTER AND COMPANY COULD CONCEIVABLY FIND THEMSELVES IN AN UNTENABLE POSITION.

6. MEANWHILE THE CGT ADMISSION ISSUE IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE AND ANYTHING SHORT OF COMPLETE REJECTION BY THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR PRESIDUM MUST BE CONSIDERED A PLUS FOR THE CGT IN ITS BID FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP. GREENWALD

NOTE BY OCT: EC BRUSSELS 9936 #AS RECEIVED.

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